



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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24 FEBRUARY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Ghana

There now seems to be no significant resistance to military elements who moved this morning to overthrow President Nkrumah. The public in Accra appears jubilant, and there are no reports of adverse public reaction elsewhere in the country. The insurgents have reportedly killed the army chief of staff and are detaining the navy and air force chiefs as well as all Nkrumah's civilian officials and party activists they can lay hands on.

A National Liberation Council, composed exclusively of military and police personnel, will direct the new regime. It is headed by General Ankrah--dismissed by Nkrumah last summer--but will probably be dominated by police commissioner Harlley and the two colonels who led the coup. Senior civil servants--reportedly anti-Communist--are to conduct the day-to-day business of government.

2. Indonesia

The student demonstrations today were probably the army's last chance to move against Sukarno. The military leaders again failed to take the plunge.

The student disturbances around the palace did not prevent investiture of Sukarno's new leftist-oriented cabinet, although most of the ministers had to come by helicopter. This humiliating start for the new cabinet did not daunt Sukarno, who will now probably want to take up where he left off. Extensive arrests of his opponents, restoration of friendly relations with Peking, stepped-up military activity against Malaysia, and attempts to blame all his troubles on the US are to be expected.

3. South Vietnam

There are an increasing number of reports that the Viet Cong are preparing for stepped-up political agitation in the urban areas of South Vietnam--particularly in and around Saigon. This information follows almost immediately the publication of an authoritative statement on this subject by the National Liberation Front. The article was noted in the Brief on Monday.

One of these late reports says that the Viet Cong will soon instigate mass demonstrations in Saigon to demand higher wages and an end to conscription. Another indicates that the enemy has plans to aggravate inflationary pressures by clamping down on the movement of goods to Saigon from the provinces. A third states that the Viet Cong are making preparations to infiltrate their followers at forthcoming Buddhist rallies in Da Nang to turn them into anti-American demonstrations.

In the capital area, this type of political and economic pressure is to be accompanied by intensified ambushes and attacks on the outskirts of the city.

4. Philippines

Support for sending a Philippine contingent to Vietnam is increasing. Diverse and influential groups representing veterans, labor, and students are publicly supporting the administration's bill, which the House is expected to bring up for public hearings on Monday.

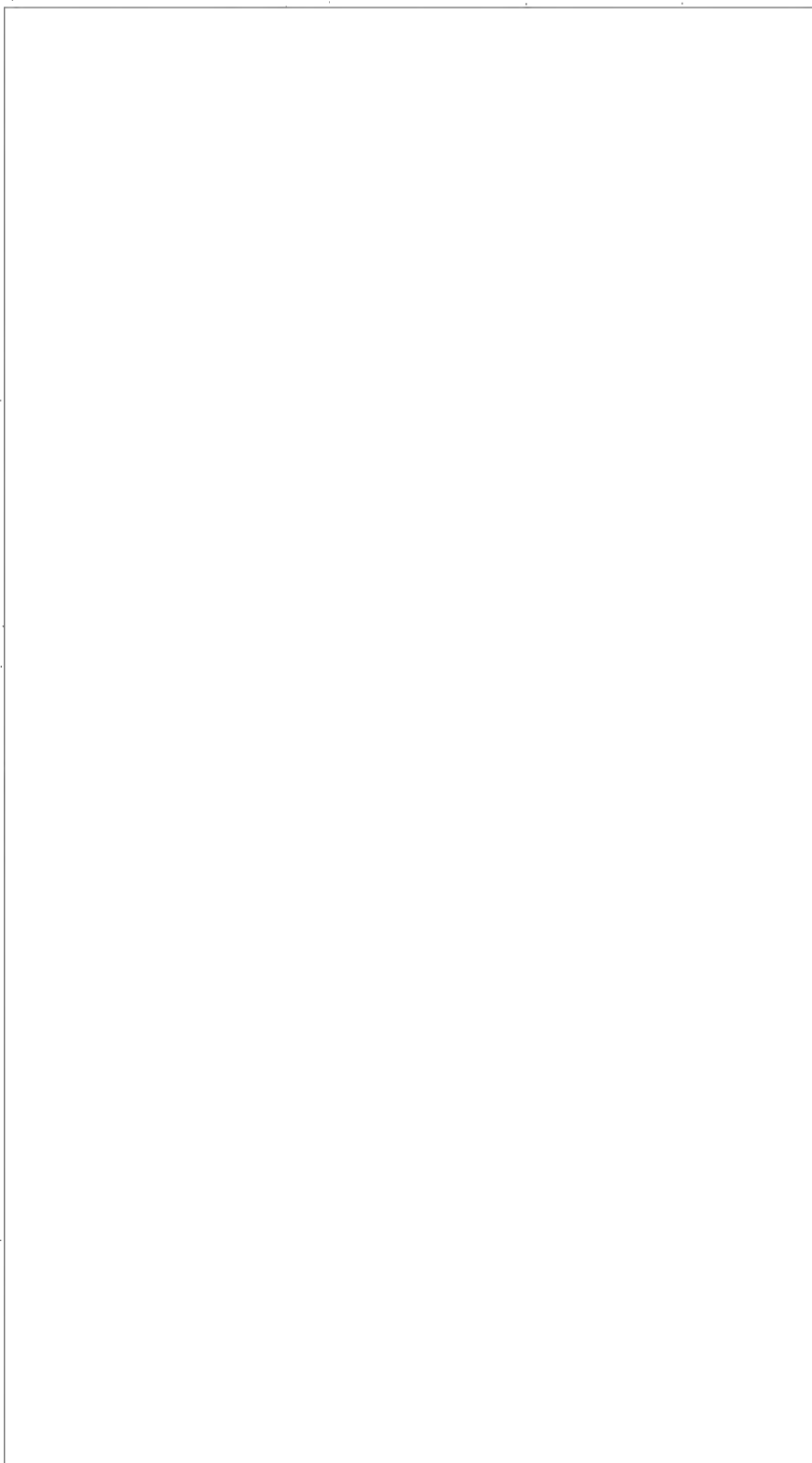
5. Communist China

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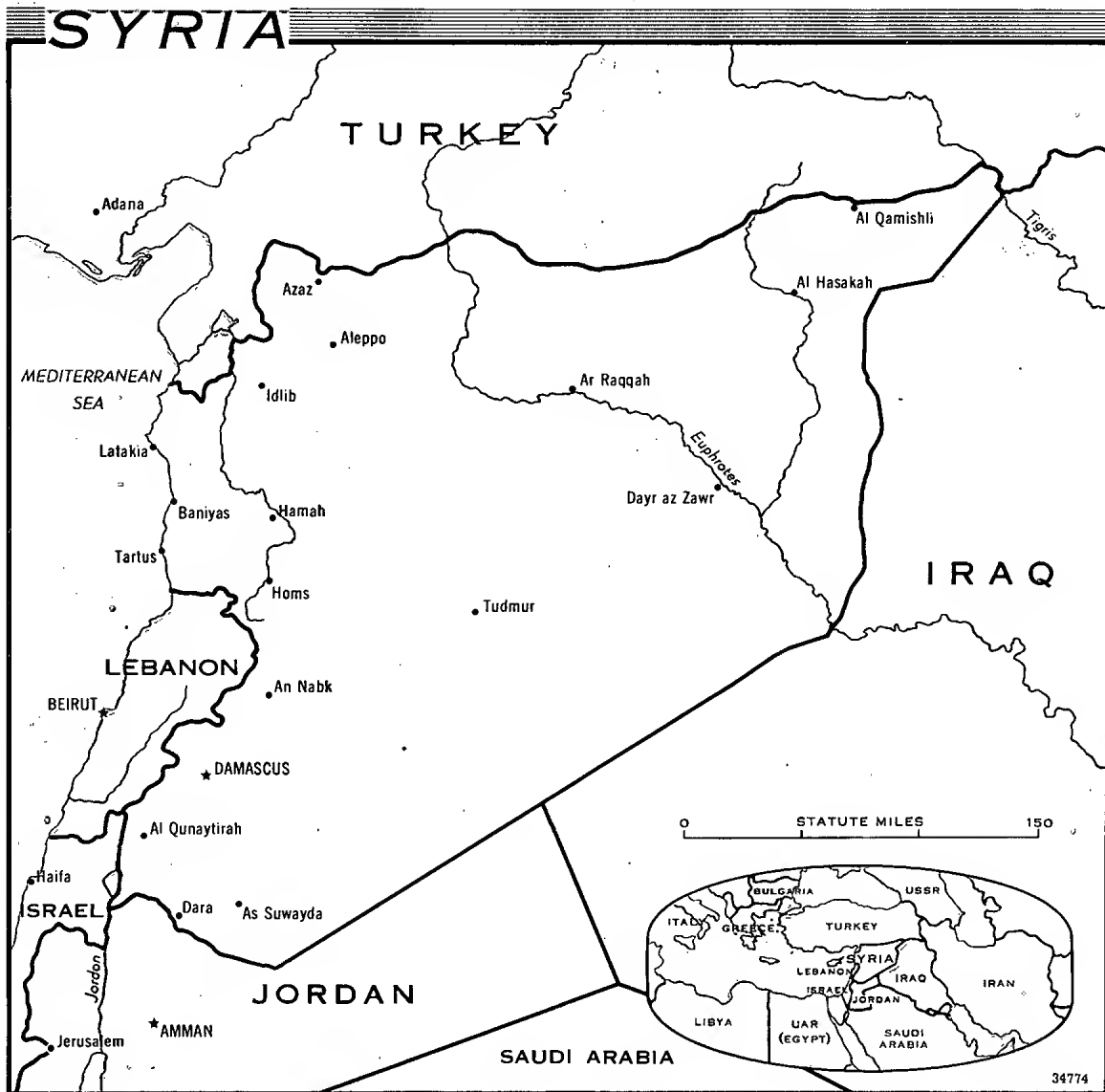
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6. Cuba

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7. Dominican Republic

Defense chief Perez y Perez and other leading military officials are urging the service chiefs to obey Garcia Godoy's order to step down. The army chief appears ready to comply, but air force chief de los Santos is being "most difficult," and last night the president cancelled a broadcast in which he had hoped to announce a solution to the civilian-military impasse.

8. Syria

The coup leaders appear to be consolidating their control throughout the country, although some opposition may be continuing in Aleppo. Key military units on the Israeli border not far from Damascus originally opposed to the coup, have made no move.

The 24-hour curfew in Damascus was eased this morning, and an "eerie quiet" continues. There has been no public announcement of the composition of the new government. (Map)

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9. Soviet Union

Cosmos 110,

The high orbit will carry it through a radiation zone, and radiation study is probably a primary aim of the flight.

10. Uganda

Opposition to Premier Obote's take-over appears to be coalescing around Brigadier Opoloto, a moderate and the legal commander of the army. Fighting between forces loyal to him and those supporting Obote could break out at any moment.

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